

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. TAKAHASHI et al. Confirmation No.:
Serial No.: 10/822,663
Filed: April 13, 2004
For: AUTOMATIC ANALYZER
Group: 1743
Examiner: P. Kathryn Wright

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents October 16, 2007
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the foreign patent documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p).

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language abstract.

The listed documents were cited by an Examiner of a corresponding application filed in Japan. The Japanese Examiner's translated comments are as follows:

JP-A-03-162672 shows a turn table arranging a plurality of sample tubes, a cover for covering the turn table at the setting and removing the sample tube to the turn table, a dispensing mechanism for dispensing a sample in the sample tube to an analysis apparatus, and a sample information reading apparatus (bar code reader) for reading the sample information of the sample tube.

The sample information of the sample tube is read by the bar code reader two times in order to improve the reliability of the bar code reader.

According to JP-A-10-019899 and JP-A-10-332708, the bar code attached to the sample container is read twice to confirm the agreement of the sample before the sample dispensing operation. An alarm is generated in accordance with the result of the above-mentioned confirmation operation.

JP-A-03-162672 fails to disclose the timing of reading the sample information twice.

However, a person of ordinary skill in the art may easily have made the present invention the combination of JP-A-03-162672 and the bar code reading time as disclosed in JP-A-10-019899 and JP-A-10-332708.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. KAS-204) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

/Daniel J. Stanger/
Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846

DJS/sdb
(703) 684-1120